

Final Online Conference

# Converting beach wrack into a resource and asset

## Towards sustainable solutions for beach wrack use

1-2 June 2021

Day 1: 9:00 – 12.30 CET

Day 2: 9:00 – 14.45 CET

Join DAY I+II+ Beach Wrack Network and Matchmaking by following this link:

**Conference Room:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88909794850?pwd=WmhjUHBFNlBmdkpKN1VtZEI3ejMzOT09>

Meeting-ID: 889 0979 4850

Code: CONTRA

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Welcome to the final online conference of the Interreg BSR project CONTRA!

Let's explore innovative solutions of beach wrack use in Europe:

- Get inspiration from forerunners on sustainable recycling options, beach wrack management and value chains.
- Connect to transnational stakeholders in the Beach Wrack Network initiated by the CONTRA project.
- Expand your network for new and improved collaborations during our matchmaking session and on our online market place.

Let's convert beach wrack from a nuisance to a resource and asset!

Your CONTRA Team

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For **coffee breaks** have a look at the coffee tables on **Wonder.Me**:

<https://www.wonder.me/r?id=d37c33c4-4995-4ea0-8633-146fc573ae26>



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## Agenda

### Day 1 | 1 June 2021

8:45 **Arrival & Technical Setup**

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9:00 **Session #1 – Opening / Debate**

Introduction by the CONTRA Lead partner, Hendrik Schubert, University of Rostock

Debate with CONTRA partners – What does sustainable beach wrack management mean to you?

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9:55 **Session #2 – Beach wrack as a resource**

Video greetings from HELCOM, Rüdiger Stempel, Executive Secretary

Key note „Natural life cycle of beach wrack“ by Tiia Möller (University of Tartu, EE), Cintia Organo Quintana (University of Denmark, DK), Jacek Bełdowski and Lech Kotwicki (The Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, PL)

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10:40 **Coffee break**

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11:00 **Session #3 – Environmental Aspects of Beach Wrack Management**

Presentation of sustainable solutions for beach wrack use and management by CONTRA partners and experts beyond the project:

**WRACOVER** – building landfill biocovers out of beach wrack to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions – *Køge Municipality, DK, Sara Hillbom Guizani*

**WRACK4COAST** – using beach wrack for dune restoration for coastal protection – *Atlantic Branch of Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, Kaliningrad, RU, Julia Gorbunova*

**FERTIWRACK** – use of reed bed systems for integrated treatment of beach wrack for the production of soil conditioner/fertilizer – *Gdańsk University of Technology, PL, Magdalena Gajewska*

**Beach wrack and the issue of methane release** – *University of Denmark, DK, Cintia Organo Quintana*

External pitches:

**COASTAL Biogas** – use of cast seaweed to mitigate eutrophication - *Baltic Energy Innovation Centre, SE, Jörgen Held*

Q&A Sessions with presenters in parallel breakout rooms

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12:10 **Meeting wrap-up and appetizer for day 2**

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12:30 **End of day 1**

**Day 2 | 2 June 2021**

8:45 **Arrival & Technical Setup**

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9:00 **Session #4 – Value chains of Beach Wrack Management**

Impulse talk by Jens Almqvist, Krinova Science Park, SE

Presentation of sustainable solutions for beach wrack use and management by CONTRA partners and experts beyond the project:

**WRACK4SOIL** – using beach wrack for the production of compost and soil – *Hanseatische Umwelt CAM GmbH, DE, Steffen Aldag*

**BEACH WRACK CONVERSION** – process chain of converting beach wrack into carbon-neutral biochar – *KS-VTCtech, DE, Timo Garrels*

**ALREA** – guideline for the production of soil amendment (biochar and gasification syngas) and energy recovery out of beach wrack – *Linnaeus University, SE, William Hogland*

External pitches:

**EST-AGAR AS** – Extraction of furcelleran from seaweed for food manufacturing, *Est-Agar AS, EE, Urmas Pau*

**COASTGRASS** – Using natural fibers i.e. beach wrack and biodegradable plastic for the production of sustainable packaging material, *Coastgrass, DK, Malthe Timmermann Larsen*

Q&A Sessions with presenters in parallel breakout rooms

Transferable business models by Jens Almqvist, Krinova Science Park, SE

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10:20 **Coffee break**

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10:35 **Session #5 – Fishbowl discussion: Beach wrack management challenges**

Discuss with CONTRA partners, policy-makers and other stakeholders challenges and obstacles of beach wrack management, the market potential of beach wrack based products or relevant policy frameworks.

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11:35 **Session #6 – A look into the future**

Challenges, potentials and recommendations for beach wrack use and management - by the CONTRA Lead partner, Hendrik Schubert/Jana Wölfel, University of Rostock

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12:00 **Lunch**

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13:00 **Beach Wrack Network** and **Matchmaking - The future starts now!**

The **Beach Wrack Network** by Jane Hofmann, EUCC – The Coastal Union Germany

Future funding possibilities by Hauke Siemen, REM Consult

**Matchmaking and networking:** Services, products or project ideas for sustainable solutions of beach wrack use and management:

**COASTGRASS**, DK - Biodegradable packaging material containing eelgrass

**LINNAEUS University**, SE - Unmanaged beaches from a climate & land-marine use perspective

**STAEMMLER-Erden**, DE - Soil and Compost based on marine biomass

**BRAINBOTICS**, DK - Sustainable algae collection using autonomous robots

**ISOMORPH srl**, IT - Solar heat for transforming beach wrack to solar carbon + Gasifier for beach wrack

**AQUAZOSTA® MB Marine Plant Biotechnology**, DE - The **AQUAZOSTA® Value Chain** - Bioeconomy with unique marine flowering plants, especially eelgrass *Zostera marina* L. from the Baltic Sea

**SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth EEIG**, DE - innovative and sustainable uses of marine resources

**Q&A Sessions** with presenters in parallel breakout rooms

Please visit our **online market place** for more information on matchmaking presentations!

14:45 **End of day 2 and the conference**

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## About CONTRA

Marine organic material, or beach wrack, that is washed up onto beaches by waves and currents can be a real nuisance, especially when large quantities land and then start to decompose on warm, sunny days. At coastal resorts where local economies rely on beach tourism, beach wrack is often perceived as being 'dirty and smelly'. Its removal and ultimately its disposal/use are costly operations and still problematic for many coastal authorities.

The challenge is to find a balance between public demand for 'clean' beaches, environmental protection and the local economy. The EU Interreg-project CONTRA (CONversion of a Nuisance to a Resource and Asset; 2019–2021) aimed to change how coastal municipalities see and deal with beach wrack and help convert this nuisance into a resource and asset. In five work packages and seven case studies, the ecological, social and economic aspects of the various collection and use options were compiled and evaluated. Guidelines and reports have been created to address the main issues that coastal authorities are faced with. Therefore, a considerable cross-disciplinary stakeholder network of municipalities, companies, authorities and scientific institutes worked together in an international consortium of 14 partners and 21 associated partners from six Baltic Sea countries (DE, SE, DK, PL, EE, RUS).

This work opens the doors to future cross-border collaboration a little wider, with the ultimate aim of delivering a 'win-win-win' situation – namely, improvements in coastal water quality, clean & healthy beaches and blue growth opportunities for the Baltic Sea Region. Visit our website for more information!

Your CONTRA Team!

[www.beachwrack-contr.eu](http://www.beachwrack-contr.eu)

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You are invited to join the **Beach Wrack Network** founded for the exchange between experts, practitioners, and policy makers about beach wrack issues within the Baltic Sea Region and beyond.

### Lead Partner

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